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TAGS: OVIP, PREL, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI MINISTER OF STATE PLANNED VISIT TO U.S.

1. IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR CRIGLER AUGUST 28TH, SOMALI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMED ALI HAMUD REQUESTED STATE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM DURING HIS LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER PLANNED TRIP TO THE U.S. THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. WAS TO ADDRESS THE UNGA ON OCTOBER 3RD. HE ADDED THAT ON THIS, HIS FIRST TRIP EVER TO THE U.S., HE HOPED TO MEET WITH KEY CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOMALIA, IN PARTICULAR, ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. THOSE HE EXPLICITLY HOPED TO MEET WERE SECRETARY SCHULTZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CROCKER, AMBASSADOR WALTERS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

2. AS RELATED TO US, THE MINISTER'S ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

-- HE INTENDS TO BE IN TUNIS ON SEPTEMBER 12TH TO CHAIR THE ARAB LEAGUE MEETING. HE STATED THAT HE COULD BE IN THE UNITED STATES AS EARLY AS SEPTEMBER 15TH AND IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH U.S. OFFICIALS (AS STATED ABOVE) EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA ON OCTOBER 3RD.

3. AMBASSADOR CRIGLER INTENDS TO SPEAK FURTHER TO THE PROPOSED VISIT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. WE WILL SUPPLY ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS AS WE RECEIVE THEM. BORICH
END OF MESSAGE

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